

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 20, 70 and 76. Claims 30-49 and 80-100 were canceled without prejudice in response to the Restriction Election Requirement mailed December 14, 2004. Claims 1-29 and 51-79 are pending in the application.

1. (Original) A method of providing status data regarding a user item, the method comprising the steps of:  
obtaining a first type of status data, a second type of status data and a third type of status data;  
encoding the first type of status data in a first data field of a fixed-length data packet;  
encoding the second type of status data and the third type of status data in a second data field of the fixed-length data packet; and transmitting the data packet.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first type of status data comprises location data.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fixed-length data packet is a 15-digit data packet.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the second type of status data and the third type of status data comprises alarm status data.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising an initial step of receiving a user's request for at least one of the first, second and third types of status data.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of receiving a user item control command.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second data field occupies approximately one byte of the fixed-length data packet.
8. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the second data field is a two-digit data field.
9. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the first type of status data comprises location data and wherein the first data field occupies 12 digits of the fixed-length data packet.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising a step of controlling the user item according to the user item control command.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising a step of encoding a fourth type of status data in a third data field of the fixed-length data packet.
12. (Original) A method of encoding alarm code data, speed data, direction data and location data regarding a user item and transmitting these data, the method comprising the steps of:  
encoding the location data in a location data field of a fixed-length data packet; encoding the direction data in a direction data field of the fixed-length data packet;  
encoding the alarm code data and the speed data in a combined data field of the fixed-length data packet; and  
transmitting the data packet.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the fixed-length data packet comprises a 15-digit data packet.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the location data field comprises a 12-digit data field.
15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the combined data field comprises a 2-digit data field.
16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the combined data field occupies approximately one byte of the fixed-length data packet.
17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising an initial step of receiving a request for at least one of the location data, alarm code data, speed data, direction data and location data.
18. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising a step of receiving a user item control command.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising a step of controlling the user item according to the user item control command.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically providing status data regarding a user item, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a downstream data packet sent by a user to a remote device, the downstream data packet comprising a downstream message code;

decoding the downstream message code to determine requested status data;

obtaining at least a portion of the requested status data, the portion comprising a plurality of data types;

encoding the portion in an upstream data packet, the upstream data packet comprising a plurality of content fields including at least one content field which comprises a second plurality of data types; and

transmitting the upstream data packet from the remote device to the user.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the upstream data packet comprises a fixed-length data packet.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the upstream data packet comprises a 15-digit data packet.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein one or more content fields comprise a location data field.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein one or more content fields comprise an alarm data field.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the content field which comprises a second plurality of data types occupies approximately one byte of the upstream data packet.

26. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising a step of receiving a user item control command.

27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the content field which comprises a second plurality of data types occupies two digits of the upstream data packet.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the location data field comprises a 12-digit data field.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising a step of controlling the user item according to the user item control command.
30. (Canceled)
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50. (Canceled).
51. (Original) An apparatus for providing status data regarding a user item, the apparatus comprising:  
    means for obtaining a first type of status data, a second type of status data and a third type of status data;  
    means for encoding the first type of status data in a first data field of a fixed-length data packet and for encoding the second type of status data and the third type of status data in a second data field of the fixed-length data packet; and  
    means for transmitting the data packet.
52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the first type of status data comprises location data.
53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the fixed-length data packet is a 15-digit data packet.
54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein at least one of the second type of status data and the third type of status data comprises alarm status data.
55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising means for receiving a user's request for at least one of the first, second and third types of status data.
56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising means for receiving a user item control command.
57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the second data field occupies approximately one byte of the fixed-length data packet.
58. (Original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the second data field is a two-digit data field.

59. (Original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the first type of status data comprises location data and wherein the first data field occupies 12 digits of the fixed-length data packet.
60. (Original) The apparatus of claim 56, further comprising means for controlling the user item according to the user item control command.
61. (Original) The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the encoding means encodes a fourth type of status data in a third data field of the fixed-length data packet.
62. (Original) An apparatus for encoding alarm code data, speed data, direction data and location data regarding a user item and transmitting these data, the apparatus comprising: means for encoding the location data in a location data field of a fixed-length data packet;  
means for encoding the direction data in a direction data field of the fixed-length data packet, and for encoding the alarm code data and the speed data in a combined data field of the fixed-length data packet; and  
means for transmitting the data packet.
63. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the fixed-length data packet comprises a 15-digit data packet.
64. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the location data field comprises a 12-digit data field.
65. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the combined data field comprises a 2-digit data field.
66. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the combined data field occupies approximately one byte of the fixed-length data packet.
67. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising means for receiving a request for at least one of the location data, alarm code data, speed data, direction data and location data.
68. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising means for receiving a user item control command.

69. (Original) The apparatus of claim 68, further comprising means for controlling the user item according to the user item control command.

70. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically providing status data regarding a user item, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a downstream data packet sent by a user to a remote device, the downstream data packet comprising a downstream message code;

means for decoding the downstream message code to determine requested status data;

means for obtaining at least a portion of the requested status data, the portion comprising a plurality of data types; means for encoding the portion in an upstream data packet, the upstream data packet comprising a plurality of content fields including at least one content field which comprises a second plurality of data types; and

means for transmitting the upstream data packet from the remote device to the user.

71. (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the upstream data packet comprises a fixed-length data packet.

72. (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the upstream data packet comprises a 15-digit data packet.

73. (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein one or more content fields comprise a location data field.

74. (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein one or more content fields comprise an alarm data field.

75. (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the content field which comprises a second plurality of data types occupies approximately one byte of the upstream data packet.

76. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ apparatus of claim 70, wherein the means for receiving a downstream data packet comprises means for receiving a user item control command.

77. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the content field which comprises a second plurality of data types occupies two digits of the upstream data packet.

78. (Original) The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the location data field comprises a 12-digit data field.

79. (Original) The apparatus of claim 76, further comprising means for controlling the user item according to the user item control command.

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